This year at Charlotte Catholic, an interesting new group has been formed at Charlotte Catholic. Gathering after school, this new group, Circle of Trust, is something unique. The group offers students an open discussion on faith, serves as a support group, and is a place where they can address various hotbed topics in the CCHS community.

It started when a group of students, including the founder and leader Kelly Madden attended Camp Lurecrest, a Christian camp located in the mountains. After coming back, they decided that they wished to bring to CCHS the bond of faith they had formed at camp. It began with three members, as a loosely organized discussion group, but quickly attracted other students.

The group is not a club and is entirely run by the students with no official teacher sponsor, although Mrs. Burns was kind enough to let them use her classroom during their early days. Now the meetings take place after school on every Thursday.

The meetings start as an open discussion on the week’s topic, which Madden decides. “I decide what to talk about based about issues or what I’ve been thinking about during the week.” said Madden. The topics can range from an organization at work in the school, a notable choice being Butterfly Kisses, a hotbed topic, or a bible story. The topic is given to the group, and each member states his opinion. The discussion develops from there based on people’s responses.

People can also talk about any problems they may have had during the school week and receive support from their fellow members. Many of the members find it reassuring to know that on Thursday they can discuss their problems with sympathetic fellow students.

Usually 8 to 12 people attend meetings, although that can only be cited as a vague estimate. The meetings are as loosely organized as they were at the beginning, and people come and go as they please.

This loose organization works in the group’s favor. It means that it can work for any schedule, and that there is no set time. “One meeting ran until 6:00. It was just a couple of us in here talking,” said founder and leader Kelly Madden.

Walk-ins are welcome and encouraged. Several members have joined simply because they saw a meeting in progress, walked in, and found themselves drawn into the discussion. Students enjoy the meeting because it fosters an interesting, open discussion, and gives them perspectives on life they might not have otherwise. “It centers me,” said Sam DeBerry.

The group is open to new members and accepts anybody who wishes to engage in an interesting, faith-based dialogue.